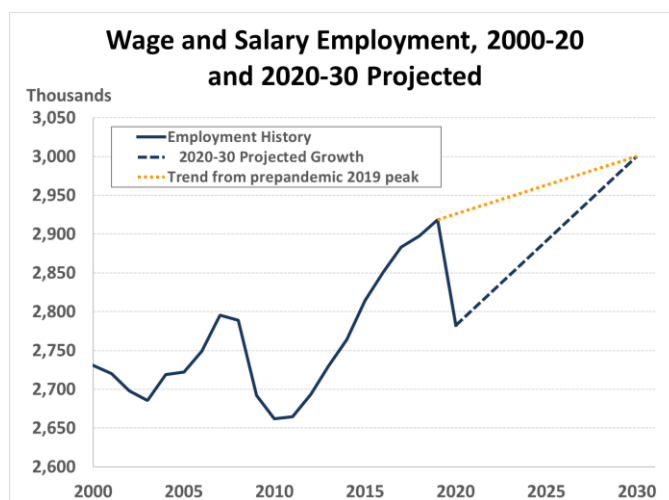


Missouri 2020-2030 Projected Growth and Recovery

September 2022

The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) produces long-term industry and occupation projections every two years as a core deliverable of the Workforce and Labor Market Information Grant to States (WIGS) provided by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. Grantees utilize the methodology, software, and guidelines specified by the state-led Projections Managing Partnership (PMP) to produce all projections. The 2020 to 2030 projections, funded by the Program Year 2021 WIGS grant and published in July 2022, have unique considerations due to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. This brief details those considerations.

Missouri experienced large job losses in 2020, due to the initial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as did the rest of the United States. The 2020 to 2030 projections, therefore, are starting from a base year that had relatively low employment. Due to that relatively low base year and the recovery from the pandemic, a relatively high growth rate is projected between 2020 and 2030. Some of this growth is attributable to recovering jobs that were lost during the pandemic.



Missouri's employment is projected to grow by 7.3 percent between 2020 and 2030. About two thirds of this growth is expected to be due to recovery from the 2020 pandemic. Missouri lost 4.7 percent of its total employment in 2020. By 2030, Missouri is projected to recover and surpass the employment level from 2019, which was the peak of employment before the pandemic.

While the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment was widespread, some industries and

occupations were impacted far greater than others. Industries related to accommodation, entertainment, food services, and personal services declined by a greater margin than those less centered on direct interactions between people.

Industry Projections

The *Accommodation and Food Services* industry sector is projected to have the largest employment growth, with an increase of 52,160 jobs between 2020 and 2030. Most of this employment growth (86%) is due to recovery from the pandemic.

Accommodation and Food Services was heavily impacted by the pandemic, losing 44,673 jobs, or 17% of its employment, from 2019 to 2020. It is expected that much of this employment growth will occur in the early years of the decade.

The *Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation* industry sector was the most affected by the pandemic, losing one quarter of its employment in 2020. All of the projected employment growth in this sector is expected to be due to the recovery.

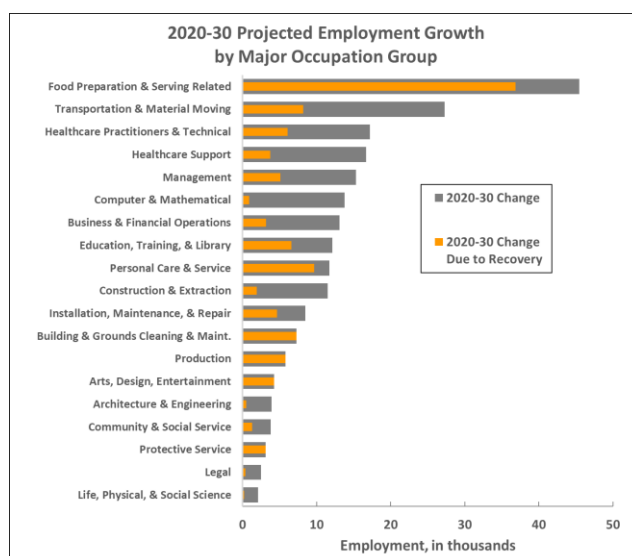
Occupation Projections

The *Food Preparation and Serving Related* major occupation group is projected to have the largest employment growth, with an increase of 45,448 jobs between 2020 and 2030. Most of this employment growth (81%) is due to recovery from the pandemic. This industry was also deeply affected by the pandemic, losing 14 percent of its employment from 2019 to 2020.

Methodology

In order to determine the amount of projected growth that is attributable to the recovery from the pandemic, a methodology is used that is similar to what the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) established for national 2020 to 2030 projections. The difference in employment from 2019 to 2020 is subtracted from the total employment growth from 2020 to 2030. Only occupation groups or industry sectors that experienced declines from 2019 to 2020 and are projected to have positive growth from 2020 to 2030 are included for analysis.

This methodology has limitations, in that it assumes that all the jobs lost from 2019 to 2020 are attributable to the pandemic and not due to an already existing trend of negative growth or to other factors that occurred in 2020 that were separate from the pandemic. Furthermore, it



assumes that the 2020 to 2030 employment growth figure that is “due to the recovery” is only attributable to recovering from the pandemic and not attributable to other factors or trends. It also assumes all of the employment lost during the pandemic was or will be recovered and is not impacted by permanent changes to the economy.

Data Sources:

- 2020-2030 Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) 2020-2030 Industry and Occupational Projections
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Employment Projections for pandemic recovery methodology
- “Wage and Salary Employment, 2000-20 and 2020-30 Projected” chart and industry projections data does not include self-employment. The Missouri total projected growth rate in text and occupational projections data does include self-employment.

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